GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:338
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2002
MANUFACTURE OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI;SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have taken any steps to ensure adherence to adequate safeguards as laid down by the Ministry of Environment and Forests regarding manufacturing storage and use of hazardous chemicals by the industries;

(b) if so the details thereof; and

(c) whether after the liberalization and delicensing of chemical industry, production of hazardous chemicals has increased;

(d) if so, the number of checks carried out during the last three years, Stat-wise;

(e) whether there is any mechanism to keep watch on such industries

(f) if so, the details in this regard; and
(g) the action taken by the Government against the Chemical industries/manufacturers units found violating environment safety norms?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS(SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 338 TO BE ANSWERED ON 6TH AUGUS 2002
(a) to (g): A number of measures have been taken by the Government to ensure compliance with Manufacturing, Storage and Import of Hazardous Substances Rules, 1989 (amended in 1994 and 2000) and the Chemical Accident (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules 1996 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for proper handling of chemicals and management of accidents. Different authorities specified under the Rules have been entrusted with specific responsibilities to ensure compliance. The measures include the preparation of on-site and off-site emergency plans with the object of prevention of major accidents arising from industrial activities and limitation of the effects of such accidents both on the man and the environment. While it cannot be said conclusively on account of the rapidly changing market conditions whether the production of hazardous chemicals has increased or not, a close watch is kept through a system of site appraisal committees to examine the applications for location of hazardous factories, fixing specific responsibilities to be discharged by the occupier and maintenance of medical records of workers, constitution of safety committees and enforcement of the various provisions by the Chief Inspector of Factories. A number of authorities, at the district, state and national levels have been notified for taking action for violation of various rules under the respective provisions in this regard.